

snap shots

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Peter and Barabara Schultz Introduce Trumbull Panoramic Camera Sunday, May 3, 2015, 1:30 P.M. Woman's Club Workshop, Newton Highlands MA

The number of panoramic cameras increased dramatically in the late 19th century due to the availability of flexible film, eliminating the need for curved glass plates (e.g., as used in the Sutton/Ross Panoramic camera). Stirn's "Wonder Camera" (1889 patent) was as small as a box camera and targeted amateur use. In contrast, Flammang's 1894 patented panoramic camera (sold by Scovill) used large flexible sheet film fitted in a curved plate holder and targeted the professional.



In 1896, two Midwesterners (Peter Angsten and Charles Gesbeck in Chicago) proposed using curved roll film, but there is evidence that they first applied their patent to an enormous professional model. Angsten (and his backers) soon refocused on the amateur market with his famous Al Vista.

The highly successful Kodak and famous Cirkut panoramic cameras soon followed. Curiously, many of the patents for panoramic cameras came out of the Heartland: Dumke (1895, WI), Gregory (1898, IL), Stark (1899, WI), Thomas (1900, WI), Houston (1901, ND), Johnston (1905, WY), Bell (1908, IA), and Perring (1909, MI). Perhaps these Midwest inventors sought to capture their vast horizons—or they were stimulated by the remarkable success of the Al Vista.

The May 3rd presentation by PHSNE member Peter Schultz and his wife Barbara focuses on another Heartland inventor, Rollin H. Trumbull from Chicago. His 1901 "Interchangeable" camera survives, along with prototypes, working final models, photographs, and correspondence. This amateur camera not only covers 360° but also could be used as a snapshot camera. Or it could be stopped and started multiple times.

The Schultzes will use archives to explore the business (and intrigue) of bringing a camera to market, the barriers he faced, and the end of a great idea. They illustrate the talk with images taken by the inventor (including the inventor himself in a panoramic view), his cameras, and his competition.

Peter and Barbara Schultz are long-time collectors of photographica, specializing in the early, old, and unusual. Barbara is a trained graphic designer who now spends time repairing and restoring an old house, not to mention old cameras. Peter just retired as a faculty member at Brown University, but continues an active research program in planetary geology (specializing in impact cratering) with more than 150 journal articles and a book.



Above—Chautauqua camp (New York), R. Trumbull (ca. 1904)
 Below—Street scene near Chicago taken with Trumbull panoramic camera (ca. 1903)



Canadian Colleagues Present Spring Fair

The Photographic Historical Society of Canada will hold its Annual Spring Photographica Fair on Sunday May 31, 2015 at a new venue in Toronto. For information visit phsc.ca.

The Discussion Continues . . .

Several articles have appeared in recent issues of *snap shots* concerning the loss of photographic records in a digital age. For further discussion on this timely topic, check out this very informative posting: amateurphotographer.co.uk/latest/photo-news/photographers-2-45859#FVd1H2YFfvQIoHCy.99.



Two vintage cameras recently spotted at the Cummer Museum in Jacksonville, Florida turned out, on closer inspection, to be a pair of metal book ends. At about \$300, it's an interesting but pricey nostalgic accessory.

PHSNE Membership

New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year. Regular PHSNE membership is \$15 for students, \$35 for individuals and institutions, \$40 for a family, and \$45 for foreign membership. Join or renew online at phsne.org/join or phsne.org/renew, or send a check in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. bank or dollar denominated international money order. Members should check the expiration date on the *snap shots* mailing label before sending in dues.

Send payments, changes of address, and other contact information, to Joe Walters Jr, PHSNE Membership Chair, P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465. (Call: 617-826-9294; email: membership@phsne.org; or use the Web form at phsne.org/contacts).

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Decisions, Decisions . . .



Garden of the Gods, Lew Regelman, 1952

On a Boy Scout trip in 1952, I shot a scenic photo at the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs CO. In 1978, my then thirteen year old daughter returned from a

western trip with her own photo of the Garden of the Gods that I instantly recognized – a near duplicate of

the one I took twenty-six years earlier, the main difference being the weather conditions and time of day. A coincidence? Not really. We were



Garden of the Gods, Lisa Regelman, 1978

both directed to the very same spot by one of the ubiquitous “Kodak Picture Spot” signs.

With cell phones snapping pictures of just about everything in all directions, it seems odd that we once received instructions on where to take a picture. According to *Wikipedia*, “A Kodak Photo Spot (also called Kodak Picture Spot or Kodak Photo Point) is a location with a Kodak-sponsored sign indicating a



recommended spot from which to take a photograph. They are found in areas popular with tourists, and are particularly common in Disney theme parks. . . One such sign reads, ‘This location recommended by top

photographers to help you tell the story of your visit in pictures.’ ”

A posting at photosecrets.com/kodak-picture-spot-1920-2012 notes that, “The landmark Kodak Picture Spot signs . . . are no more. They are being removed from their last bastion — Disney properties — since Kodak, due to bankruptcy, is ending the 56-year sponsorship of Disneyland, and Disney World.” Wherever you travel, you’re now on your own when deciding what to photograph!

~Lew Regelman

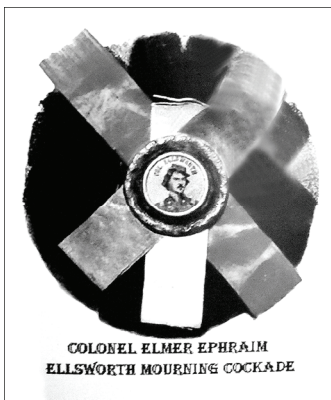
Photos Enhanced Mourning Cockades

A staggering number of American families were personally affected by the Civil War, experiencing some form of hardship or loss. One way they coped was by wearing badges or mourning cockades on the chest or left sleeve to memorialize those who died.

Given the developments in photography during the Civil War era, many mourning cockades included photographs. They were worn by people of all ages, including young children. The practice was particularly widespread following the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln in 1865.



Prior to the Civil War, cockades were worn as an expression of political sentiment. They were quite common in the south where anti-abolitionist and pro-secession sentiments abounded. Susan Bradrod of Pine Hill Plantation in Florida wrote in her diary about the Florida Secession Convention in 1861, "The ambassador from South Carolina had evidently made an impression on his audience of yesterday. . . for in every direction could be seen Palmetto cockades, fastened with a blue ribbon; there were hundreds of them. Judge Gwynn came in and pinned a cockade on Father and one on me. Oh, I was so proud" ([etsy.com/listing/159214517/florida-secession-cockade](https://www.etsy.com/listing/159214517/florida-secession-cockade)).



Most cockades were black, but some included patriotic colors and/or gold. According to *The Complete Guide to Mourning Cockades* (madmimi.com/s/9df895?o=pm), "Black has historically been the color of mourning . . . White was introduced in clothing in the 'half mourning' stage . . . Gold was occasionally used by the church in funerals and we see it on some rare mourning cockades . . . Patriotic colors were occasionally used on mourning cockades. If the deceased was a military person, or a public figure (such as President Lincoln), black would be combined with red, white and blue."

Additional information, along with a wide variety of cockades is available at creativecockades.com.

Rejuvenated Fitchburg Museum Exhibit Features Recent Photo Acquisitions

The Fitchburg Art Museum, located in Worcester MA, recently underwent a one million dollar rejuvenation. *Recent Acquisitions: Photography* will be the first exhibition in the newly renovated Ausin Gallery. It features over 40 newly acquired photographs, selected from over 200, by internationally acclaimed artists and regional standouts including Nino Migliori, Jack Giacomelli, Mario De Biasi, Eduard J. Steichen, Alvin Langdon Coburn, Gertrude Kasebier, Eduard J. Steichen, Clarence H. White, Alfred Stieglitz, Horst P. Horst, Baron Adolf de Meyer, Cecil Beaton, Joel Meyerowitz, Kenda North, Jeffu Warmouth, Miska Draskoczy, and Mary Kocol.



Mario De Biasi (Italian, 1923- 2013) *Gli Italiani Si Voltano, Milano (Italians look back, Milan), 1956*

Two local Massachusetts photographers are represented: Jules Aarons and Stephen Di Rado. Aarons is a noted street photographer whose photographs date from the 1940's through 1950's. Durato is a Worcester area documentary photographer.

Over the last two years, the Fitchburg Art Museum's collection of photography has seen considerable growth through generous gifts and strategic purchases of both historical and contemporary work. The museum's photographic holdings now number over 650 prints. The exhibit was organized by PHSNE member Stephen Jareckie, the museum's consulting curator of photography.

This is an ongoing exhibition. Updated information will be posted at fitchburgartmuseum.org. You can also visit telegram.com/article/20150318/NEWS/303189529/1246 for information about the museum's new look.

Remembering Roger L. Mayer

Film Executive Roger L. Mayer died on March 23 at the age of eighty-eight. As chairman of the National Film Preservation Foundation, he oversaw the rescue of more than 2,000 movies whose copyrights were not renewed. In recognition of these efforts, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awarded Mayer the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award at the 2005 Oscar ceremony.



SGranitz/WireImage

During his fifteen-year tenure at MGM, including the presidency of MGM Laboratories, he “discovered that the studio’s classic films were being stored, and sometimes baking, in secure concrete vaults in which the temperatures could soar to 130 degrees in the California summers. He replaced the vaults with air-conditioned repositories. Mr. Mayer was later considered a visionary. Before there were video players and cable television, he saw the potential value of vast film libraries when most studio executives were oblivious to them” (Sam Roberts, *New York Times*, March 29, 2015).

One controversy surrounding his work focused on his colorizing of classic films. Criticized by some for altering a work of art, Mayer considered it an alternative format, not a substitute—one that appealed to modern viewers.

PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, September to June, at 1:30 p.m. preceded by a mini trade fair at 12:30 and an open meeting of the PHSNE Board at 11:00 a.m.

Upcoming meetings:

June 7—Mark Elson, Civil War Re-enactors

No meetings July, August. Resume in September.

Driving directions to Woman’s Club Workshop:

From I-95/Rt-128 exit 20 take Rt-9 East toward Brookline/Boston. Turn left at Woodward St, right onto Lincoln St, and left onto Columbus St. WCW will be to your right. The WCW is about 1.4 miles inside 128.

Coming west on Rt-9 from Boston, turn right on Walnut St then left on to Lincoln St, then right onto Columbus St. The WCW (#72) will be to your right.

Limited time parking rules do not apply on Sundays. Park on Columbus or Lincoln. There is a public parking lot on the other side of Lincoln opposite the Church.

Public transportation:

MBTA, Newton Highland Station on the Green Line (Riverside Branch). Exit via Walnut Street exit. Go down Lincoln St (directly across Walnut) and turn right on to Columbus St.

PHSNE Online

PHSNE’s Web site is online at pnsne.org. See [facebook.com/pnsne](https://www.facebook.com/pnsne) and the president’s blog at pnsne.org/presidentsblog for items of PHSNE interest. Comments are welcome, so join the discussion of photo history. Visit pnsne.org/archive for PHSNE history and *snapshots* issues. Scheduling changes due to weather conditions or other factors will be posted on this website.

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Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Sunday, May 3, 2015, 1:30 P.M.
Woman’s Club Workshop
Peter and Barbara Schultz, Trumbull Panoramic Camera

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